**Draft Minutes of Gwernyfed Community Council Meeting**

**Held in person at Felindre Hall and online.**

**on the 13th of March 2025 at 7.30pm**

**In attendance**

Cllr. Nick Pritchard- Chair

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

Cllr. Will Lloyd

Cllr. Grahame Day – Over Teams

Cllr. Rachel Harding

Cllr. Chris Jones

Cllr Keri Doell – Over Teams

Cllr. Mike Bugler – Vice Chair

Also, in attendance Cllr. Will Lloyd in his capacity as County Councillor

 and Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

Mrs Sue Thomas, the incoming Clerk was also in attendance.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mike Bugler on agenda item 6, Request for funding from Glasbury Arts.

1. **Apologies**

None

1. **Agree Minutes of the 13th February 2025 as a true record**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

1. **Matters Arising**

The Clerk emailed Lyn Parry on the 14th January for an update on the Community Councils proposal for the construction of a new footpath by the bus shelter**,** Lyn Parry had forwarded the proposal to the traffic and passenger department and was awaiting a response. Cllr Lloyd will pursue the issue . **Action Cllr Lloyd**

Cllrs Harding and Bugler have completed a grant application form for Gwernyfed Community Council. The grant application form will be circulated to all Councillors for comment and placed on the April agenda for adoption**. Action Cllrs Harding , Bugler and Clerk**

The Electoral Review - The Clerk contacted Sandra Matthews of Powys County Council expressing concern that no mention was made of Gwernyfed Community Council within the review. The response was that at this stage only County Councils were involved in the review with Community Councils consulted in the next phase. It was agreed that the OVW Area Reps would also raise the issue at the next Area Meeting. **Action Cllrs. Pritchard and Harding** O**VW – Survey of Member Councils.** The Clerk responded to the survey online using the answers provided by Cllrs Harding and Pritchard to questions 18-26. Copy of the Survey will be placed on Teams

 **Penyrheol Baptist Chapel, Funding Request** The Clerk informed Mary Hammond that a grant of £300 had been deposited in the Chapel bank account. An acknowledgement and thank you email has been received.

**Cost of Clerks Qualification-** Clerk to contact SLCC to establish the cost of the Qualifications of ILCA and CIILCA.  **Action Clerk**

1. **Correspondence Julia King** – Minutes of Hay and Talgarth Locality Network Meeting 14th February 2025- **Noted Independent Review Panel Report – Noted Barbara Aglezarke – Brecon and District Dial-A-Ride Request for funding,** Councillors will consider the request when their annual accounts have been received **Action Clerk**
2. **Request for funding from Glasbury Arts accompanied by the annual Accounts**

The request stated 6 young people on the project are residents of Gwernyfed Community Council area, following an in-depth discussion Community Councillors voted unanimously to support the project to the sum of £2400. Councillors valued the service Glasbury Arts provide to young people. The Community Council wanted it conveyed that no precedent is set but would be willing to look at a future request. **Action Clerk**

**7.Planning Applications** – Decision Notices Application 24/0423/FUL- Change of use to a 30-pitch campsite at 1 Pentwyn- Refused.

Cllr Varcoe indicated that further information furnished by the Clerk, which gave the history of the application, was useful to explain to residents the decision.

Application 24/1692HH- Demolition of store and extension -Ash Cottage –

Refused – **Noted**

Application 25/0001/TPO- Reduction and incorporation of hedge-The Old Works – Approved **- Noted**

**8. Education**

Cllr Pritchard reported that Governors of Gwernyfed High School had agreed to a 12-month secondment of the Head to another school in special measures, he said that Governors were confident Gwernyfed High had put processes and policies in place to allow the secondment to take place.

**9. Bus Service and Community Needs**

Cllr.Varcoe attended the 30th Anniversary of Hay & District Dial a Ride on behalf of the Community Council. He reported he had raised the concerns of the Community Council with Gus Powell, the Vice Chair of the meeting, around transportation and the possibility of using dial a ride to provide services particularly for elderly people in outlying villages. Mr Powell responded he was very sympathetic however they were not allowed to this as it was beyond their remit.

Cllr Varcoe said there were two consultations on transport currently taking place.

Cllr Lloyd reported a weekly bus would be travelling from Talgarth to Hay through the Villages.

Cllr Lloyd to source promotional material and share with all Councillors to promote the new bus route. **Action All Councillors**

**10. Personnel Sub Committee- Terms of Reference**

 The Terms of reference were agreed by all.

**11.** **Endorsoment of Financial Regulations 2024**

 The Clerk spoke to the report highlighting the salient points:-

The Clerk of Gwernyfed Community Council is the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Any text in **bold** is a legal requirement and must be adhered with. The Regs sets out the Clerks and Councillors responsibilities. The Regs sets out timelines, for example budget setting commences in November in readiness for the precept setting in January. It explains the authorisation process for payments and the tendering process. Councillors unanimously endorsed the Financial Regulations; the Clerk will place them on the website and include under policies on Teams. **Action Clerk**

 **12. County Councillor Report**

Cllr Lloyd had forwarded his written report and spoke to the salient points**:** Hereported an8.9% Council tax rise was confirmed as Powys budget is approved.

This means that the annual council tax bill for a Band D property will rise to £2,550.51 from April.

The increase has been approved to ensure the council can deliver its services effectively despite financial pressures.

The Welsh Government has provided Powys County Council with a 3.2% increase in its local government provisional settlement for the 2025/26 financial year.

**Household Recycling Centres booking system**

Powys County Council has introduced a booking system for its Household Recycling Centres to improve the user experience and ensure the sustainability of the service., starting from April 1, 2025. Residents will need to book a time slot in advance to visit any of the five recycling centres in Powys. **Here are some key details**:·

**Booking Availability**: You can book a time slot up to seven days in advance. In many cases, you may be able to book a slot for the same day.

**Time Slots:** Each time slot is 10 minutes long. This should be sufficient for most visits, but staff will make allowances if needed.

**Booking Process**: You can book a time slot online through the Powys County Council website or by calling 01597 827465 during office hours.

**Charges**: There are no charges for booking a time slot, but there may be charges for disposing of certain types of waste, such as DIY and building waste.

**Glasbury Flooding**

During the winter storms, I was able to guide residents to report the flooding in the appropriate manner. Since then, after writing to NRW, engaging with DCWW and reporting issue to PCC, I've managed to organise a meeting with the three authorities to resolve the flooding issues in South Glasbury. They are meeting at 10am on 25th March 2025. Cllr Lloyd has invited all the affected residents and GCC Councillors are also welcome to attend the onsite meeting.

1. **Training Report from Councillors – All Councillors who have attended recent Courses.**

Cllr Jones confirmed he had attended the Health and Safety Course and Cllr Doell attended the Code of Conduct Course. The Clerk reported the bursary applied for had been accepted which reduced the cost of some courses by 50% . The free courses offered had been utilised. It was also reported that the Clerks courses were not included in the offer as it only covered Community Councillors.

1. **Website Update- Cllr Day**

Councillor Day continues to evaluate website providers, he has contacted 6 companies and provided them with specifications, the closing date for expressions of interest is the 31st March 2025. Cllr Day will report back to the April Meeting**. Action Cllr Day**

1. **National Parks –Public Park Diversion Order**

Public rights of way over land at Newcourt Farm, Tregoyd Brecon and Cwmdaunant Farm, Tregoed Brecon . There were no objections to the Order.

1. **Forward Look**

Annual Report and AGM Preparation to be placed on the April Agenda

1. **Financial Matters**

The following were reported to the meeting:

1. **Bank Balances** as at 13th of March 2025

Reserve Account £9,864.34, Current Account £14782.29

1. **Invoices and payments for approval**

 Clerks Salary and HMRC payments plus new Clerks handover Salary

 Vodaphone – Broadband DD- 2 x £25.90, February and March Payments

 Nick Pritchard - Monthly Microsoft Fee- February and March 2x £52.92 Payments

 PAVO – Payroll Services – Invoice 2584 Qtr1- £36, 2725 Qtr2 £36, and 2837 Qtr3 -£36

 OVW – Training – Invoices 9091- £20, 9104-£40, 9120- £20, 9132-£60 and 9160-£40

 OVW - Membership Fees -£199

 K.Bender – Stationery Photocopy Paper £13

 K.Bender – Hall Heating Expenses - £7

 Glasbury Arts – Funding Grant - £2400

* + - All payments were approved.

This being the last meeting for Mrs Bender, Clerk to the Community Council for the past 6 years, the Chair wanted the thanks of Councillors put on record.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Next Meeting 10th April 2025 at 7.30 pm

at Felindre Village Hall as a hybrid meeting over Teams